

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 SCI-06 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /118 W

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UNCLAS LONDON 07277

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: FORMER CEGB CHAIRMAN COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR

CHOICE: PRESS COMMENT

REF: LONDON'S 7172, JUNE 7, 1974

1. LORD HINTON OF BANKSIDE, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD, IN A BRIEF LETTER TO THE TIMES JUNE 10 CALLED ATTENTION TO THE RISKS OF PIPE FRACTURES IN WATER-COOLED REACTORS, ESPECIALLY LIGHT WATER REACTORS "WITH A HIGH FUEL ELEMENT RATING AND AN EMERGENCY COOLING SYSTEM THAT IS NOT FULLY PROVEN..." NOTING THAT THE FLIXBOROUGH DISASTER DEMONSTRATES THAT DESIGN, INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION FAILURES, WHILE EXTREMELY IMPROBABLE, ARE NOT IMPOSSIBLE, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DECISION ON THE TYPE OF REACTOR TO BE USED IN BRITAIN WILL "REMEMBER FLIXBOROUGH".

2. THE SUNDAY TIMES SCIENCE EDITOR, IN AN ARTICLE JUNE 9, COMMENTED SOMEWHAT CRITICALLY ON COTTRELL'S FINANCIAL TIMES LETTER (REFTEL), TERMING HIS ARGUMENT ONE WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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EQUATES LACK OF SAFETY IN LWR'S WITH THE SUPPOSED IN-

ABILITY OF THE BRITISH ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TO BUILD  
AND INSPECT PROPERLY STEEL PRESSURE VESSELS, EVEN THOUGH  
THEIR AMERICAN, FRENCH, AND JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS CAN  
DO SO. CITING A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WITH BRITISH DESIGN  
REACTORS, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, "IT IS ON THIS EVIDENCE  
THAT PWR ADVOCATES KEEP ARGUING THAT BRITIAN OUGHT  
STILL TO TAKE THIS UNPRECEDENTED CHANCE OF CHOOSING A  
SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED BEFORE BEING BUILT RATHER  
THAN AFTERWARDS."

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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